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A FOSSIL CAMPTOTHECIUM

A. J. GROUT

Early in October, 1916, I received from Mr. B. O. Wolden, of Wallingford, Iowa, a remarkably well preserved moss brought up by a local well-digger from a depth of 80 or 90 feet below the surface in connection with pieces of wood. According to Mr. Wolden this depth is in the Kansan Drift, probably near the bottom of this deposit

The material is somewhat coated with fine soil, although Mr. Wolden says he washed it out from lumps of earth. Otherwise it might have been collected one hundred days ago instead of having been preserved one hundred thousand years, more or less. The plants are green, although no cell contents are observable, and the leaves are perfectly preserved even to all details of cell structure. In fact it seemed so incredible that a moss could have remained so well preserved under such circumstances, that I wrote again to Mr. Wolden asking for additional details. He states that the well-digger, though not an educated man, is accurate and reliable. The moss occurred in a layer of fine sandy clay imbedded between layers of blue clay. He further stated that such an arrangement of soil layers was not unusual at such depths and that this sandy layer often contained plant remains.

Most conclusive of all is the fact that the plants, while characteristically *Camptothecium*, belong to no known American species of today and its most closely allied species (*C. pinnatifidum*) is not found east of the Rockies.

The moss was dug up in 1911, and all the fairly abundant material was sterile. For this most interesting plant I propose the name of:

Camptothecium Woldenii n. sp. Stems slender, fragments at least two inches in length, densely and regularly pinnately branching; leaves broadly lanceolate, slenderly acuminate, entire, strongly plicate, especially when dry, abruptly but rather slightly narrowed to the insertion; branch leaves 2-2.5×0.75 mm.; median leaf cells long-linear; rounded or quadrate alar cells minute, very few, rarely extending above widest point of the leaf-base. Differs from *C. pinnatifidum* and *C. aureum* in its entire leaves and very few isodiametric alar cells.

NEW DORP, NEW YORK CITY.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I

Camptothecium Woldenii Grout, photographed by the author.

1. Three fragments, × 2.
2. A portion of one of these fragments, × 5.
3. Leaves, × 9.

ANNUAL REPORTS—SULLIVANT MOSS SOCIETY—1916

Report of the President

Dr. Evans has been elected Editor of the Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, and it has become my duty to report on the activities of the members of this Society. The most remarkable contribution during the year has been the publication of the text for the *Moss Atlas* of the Natural History of Madagascar,

prepared by MM. Renauld and Cardot, a review of which may be found in the September number of the BRYOLOGIST. Fortunately for posterity, the manuscript was completed before the outbreak of the war and although it was the only possession saved by M. Cardot we have reason to hope that the types and the rest of his bryological collections are still uninjured!

Dr. Hagen is continuing his series of exsiccatae and critical studies of Norwegian mosses, making some changes in nomenclature, which, if adopted, will affect the names of some North American species. M. Thériot has made an interesting correction in the name of a Cuban species. Dr. Evans has made some 35 additions to the Hepatic Flora of Quebec, and Fr. M. Victorin has also been studying the cryptogamic flora of this region. Dr. Nichols has continued his collections in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. Dixon and Cardot have described a fossil moss from the Pliocene, the only new species, *Mnium antiquorum*, to be found in this volume, though Dr. Grout has made two new varietal combinations in *Drepanocladus*. Professor Holzinger and Professor Chamberlain have continued to give us valuable reviews and Mr. Plitt, Dr. Conklin and Mr. Kaiser still devote much time to the Society's collections. Dr. Jennings continues his able editing of the BRYOLOGIST. Mrs. Dunham has written a valuable little introduction for nature students to the mosses, and Mr. Williams, Dr. Andrews and myself are continuing our critical studies for *North American Flora* and making additions to the floras of the West Indies, South America and the Philippines.

ELIZABETH G. BRITTON, *President*.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

The past year has shown an improvement in the affairs of the Sullivant Moss Society. The Secretary extends his congratulations upon the increase in members and in subscriptions, as well as upon the increase in the number of short notes in the magazine. He wishes members to bear this in mind, lest they feel that some of the statements made below are of too pessimistic a nature.

Eight new members have joined the Society during the past twelve months in addition to seven new subscribers to the BRYOLOGIST, the membership now totalling 137, besides a subscription list of over 60. This growth is a source of great satisfaction. But all members of the Society should make every effort to bring about a further increase. We need two hundred members, and *young* members, if the Society is to prosper.

The subscriptions mentioned above are largely those of libraries and represent a source of income that is likely to be steady. A careful estimate of conditions places the probable annual revenue of the Society in dues and subscriptions as approximately \$275.00, exclusive of sales of back numbers and other incidentals. An effort has been made this year to keep expenditures at about the figure named above. The item of expense for the Hasse lichens, it is hoped, may be later

written off through the sale of sets of the exsiccati. A word of warning is necessary, however, in view of the steady increase in the cost of paper and printing, since present terms may not continue; in this case additional revenue will be imperative. As it is, plates have been possible during the past year only through the generosity of private parties. It is only fair that the Society should recognize this condition.

During the past year 4 species of hepatics, 12 of lichens, and 9 of mosses have been offered through the exchange department. This is far too small a number, and indicates a serious lack of appreciation of the opportunities afforded by the Society. The Secretary cannot state too strongly what was said in the last report in this connection. Co-operative work is needed. Obviously, the Secretary cannot write each member each time to "drum up" material; the increasing pressure of professional work prevents, even if the financial condition of the Society warranted it. The Curators stand ready at any time to identify material, and to advise in the way of offerings, in which last the Secretary will be only too glad to be of service.

Notice is again given that the chance of securing complete sets of the BRYOLOGIST is rapidly passing. *Only three* sets remain complete, after the sale of which the copies of volume three will lack the first issue. The sale of separate volumes previous to the seventh will also have to be somewhat restricted.

Only wide-spread amateur interest can furnish the backing which makes the more professional student possible. It was hoped that the BRYOLOGIST might publish during the year articles dealing with various genera of hepatics in the informal way shown by Mrs. Dunham's "Mosses." There is a decided need for such work, but hepatic students when approached seemed unwilling to attempt it. Somewhat similar comment is applicable to those members interested in mosses and lichens. The burden of providing manuscript ought not to fall upon the few, however willing. The BRYOLOGIST is *your* magazine. Each member can surely find some point worth a note during the year; a peculiarity of habitat, an extension of range, an observation upon the time of fruiting. Don't think that because a certain species of *Polytrichum* is named *commune*, it is unworthy of attention.

The financial condition of the Society is summarized below. Your attention is called to the fact that the various Curators are giving much more to the Society than their time and services. The herbarium charges represent less than the cost of mounting paper and labels. Certainly, if the Curators are willing to give their time and energy to the identification of material and the distribution of specimens, as well as making a cash outlay, members should repay them by enthusiastic co-operation.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand, December 1, 1915.....	\$1.13
Dues for current year.....	183.32
Subscriptions for current year.....	71.43
Arrears collected, dues and subscriptions.....	22.16

Dues and subscriptions for coming year, already paid.....	19.72
Sales of back numbers, and incidentals.....	41.01
Receipts from advertising.....	10.31
Receipts from sales of Hasse Lichens.....	10.50

\$359.58

EXPENDITURES

Printing and stationery.....	\$7.48
Postage and bank fees.....	8.49
Herbarium expenses.....	8.95
Express charges upon shipments of the BRYOLOGIST.....	2.67
Express on Hasse lichens.....	30.00
Intelligencer Printing Co., 5 issues of BRYOLOGIST and Index.....	223.41

\$281.00

Cash on hand at close, Nov. 30, 1916.....	78.58
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\$359.58

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD B. CHAMBERLAIN, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

Report of the Election of Officers for the Year 1917

Whole number of votes cast, 14.

For President, Mrs. Elizabeth G. Britton, 14 votes.

For Vice-President, Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, 14 votes.

For Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. E. B. Chamberlain, 14 votes.

No votes were cast other than as reported above, the candidates thus being unanimously elected to the offices designated.

ELIZABETH M. DUNHAM, *Judge of Elections.*

Report of the Curator of the Moss Herbarium for 1916

During the past year 125 specimens have been mounted in the Moss Herbarium of the Sullivant Moss Society, adding six species new to the herbarium, which now contains 3980 specimens, representing 1179 species and varieties belonging to 253 genera. A generous contributor has been Mrs. E. G. Britton, who has presented duplicates of the Langlois collections in Louisiana, many specimens from the herbarium of the late William Mitten—which have not yet been mounted—and other mosses. Other contributors have been Mrs. E. M. Dunham, John Davis, H. S. Jewett, W. E. Haydock, George H. Conklin, H. Dupret, Frank Dobbin, W. S. Cooper, Mrs. D. W. Jackson, and W. R. Taylor.

In spite of efforts to stimulate interest the Curator has to deplore the fact that the majority of our members seem to remain apathetic in their collections and correspondence. There is so much to be found in every locality that would be valuable material for study that it is most unfortunate in view of the growth of the herbarium that members of the Society can not be induced to be deeply interested in bryology in a substantial way.

Desirable material for exchange is always welcome and our stock affords ample return for those who send in their own collections when they consist of other than the species which are common almost everywhere. The continuation of the European War continues to cut off practically all foreign correspondence.

GEORGE B. KAISER, *Curator*.

GERMANTOWN, PA., DEC., 1916.

Report of the Hepatic Department for 1916

Three hundred and forty-two specimens, representing 79 genera and 162 species, have been placed in the herbarium during the past year. It was found impossible to complete the determination of the A. H. Brinkman collection, from Alberta and British Columbia. One hundred and seven specimens, however, were added this year. Among these are such rare species as *Riccia Lescuriana*, *Lophozia quadriloba*, *L. badensis*, *L. confertifolia*, *L. grandiretis*, *L. longiflora*, *L. Schultzii*, *Sphenolobus politus*, *Gymnomitrium concinatum*, *Harpanthus Flotowianus*, *Nardia geoscyphus*, *Anthelia Juratzkana*, *Scapania Bartlingii*, *S. uliginosa*, *S. paludosa*, *Clevea hyalina*, *Bucegia romancia*, *Sauteria alpina*, *Asterella Lindenbergiana*, and *Hygrobiella laxifolia*. The most important gift during the year was by Drs. A. W. Evans and Geo. E. Nichols. Dr. Evans gave us 44 specimens collected in Quebec, Ramouski, and Saguenay Counties. This set contains such interesting species as *Metzgeria furcata*, *Lophozia badensis*, *L. heterocolpa*, *L. confertifolia*, *L. inflata*, *L. Hatcheri*, *Scapania umbrosa*, *Sphenolobus minutus*, *Gymnomitrium concinatum*, *Gym. corallioides*, *Cephaloziella myriantha*, and *C. Hampeana*. (See BRYOLOGIST 19: 27-30. March, 1916.)

Dr. Geo. E. Nichols gave 42 specimens from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, and included many of the species new to Cape Breton as given in the list (See BRYOLOGIST 19: 38-47. May, 1916.). In addition, this gift includes 18 species from Connecticut. Mr. A. S. Foster sent 12 packets, partly Alaskan, and one species, *Lepidozia Sandricensis*, new to North America. Miss H. E. Greenwood, Geo. Moxley, O. E. Jennings, Geo. B. Kaiser, Roy Latham, and Stewart H. Burnham have been contributors of material from their respective locations. In Mr. Burnham's material from Ft. Ann, N. Y., was found *Chiloscyphus ascendens*. Mr. Severin Rapp's gift of 34 hepatics (See BRYOLOGIST 18: 23. March, 1915) has been acknowledged. These have been verified, and make a most valuable addition of new species to the herbarium. Further additions to species from Florida have been made by Prof. N. L. T. Nelson from Gainesville.

Miss Lorenz has sent generously of the new and rare New England species. Who of us would not like also to find in any one year *Pallavicinia Flotowiana*, *Pedinophyllum interruptum*, *Nardia crenuliformis*, *Cephaloziella bifida*, *Anthelia Juratzkana*, *Nardia obovata*, *Lophozia Kunzeana*, and *Jungermannia cordifolia*. The writer has added a full set of the genus *Sphenolobus*, and the following *Cephaloziellas* as found in the Duluth-Superior District: *C. Hampeana*, *C. bifida*, *C. myriantha*, *S. Sullivantii*, *C. elachista*, *C. byssacea*.

The Curator wishes once more to thank Miss Haynes, Miss Lorenz, and Dr. Evans for the unfailing courtesy, generous aid, and vital inspiration which they have given upon every appeal for help.

GEO. H. CONKLIN, *Curator*.

SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN, DEC. 15, 1916.

Report of the Lichen Department, 1916

The year has been one of unusual activity in the Lichen Department. In the early part of the year we received the duplicates of Dr. Hasse's large collections, a report upon which is still in the making.

Thus far, nearly half of the material has been gone over; of course, some of the species are well represented, others not so well. From those of which at least ten good duplicates could be found, 150 specimens have already been set aside. These, as you all know, have been offered for sale, and are being distributed in fascicles of twenty-five each. The first fascicle has been already distributed and the second will be in December. During the coming year we plan to distribute a fascicle every three months; that is, one in March, one in June, one in September, and one in December. Members may be pleased to learn that two of these sets can still be had. It is urged that those desiring a set order at once.

No attempt has yet been made to put into the herbarium a representation of all these specimens. This will only be done gradually, about as fast as they are offered to subscribers. This year, therefore, but 50 specimens (that is, the first two fascicles) have been added to the herbarium.

We have also been remembered by Mr. N. L. T. Nelson, who has sent us specimens collected near Gainesville, Florida, and by Mr. P. G. M. Rhodes, who has sent specimens from England. Altogether 87 specimens have been added to the herbarium, which now numbers 3160 specimens.

It is to be hoped that during the coming year more activity will be shown in the work by our members; we should have at least a dozen contributors. The same might be said regarding our exchange department. During the past year, Mr. Severin Rapp, Mr. Latham, and Mr. Rhodes each did his part. What is the matter with our other lichen friends? Let us all take a little more interest in this work, contribute to the herbarium, and not be afraid occasionally to offer a specimen or two to others.

CHARLES C. PLITT, *Curator*.

BALTIMORE, MD., DEC. 1, 1916.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Editorial.—The New Year is customarily the time to drop bad habits, make general changes in policy, and to express the hope to do better the coming year than we did last year. The Editor is somewhat immune to this New Year's contagion but in conformity with the general practice the present occasion has